PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

BULLETIN] JANUARY 10, 1942 [No. 77

LECTURE LXXVII.

A TALE OF A. R. P.

(**Editor's Note.**—*We are indebted for the following article to Mr. Michael Hoare, of Vandiperiyar, whose brother is the " B. E. W. H." of this exciting narrative*).

An incident in Hitler's attempt to set fire to the City of London.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE.

NAME.		PROFESSION.		AGE.
" B. E. W. H."	...	Banker, and leader	...	...
Serg. Curtin	...	Night watchman	...	50
Legge	...	Fire watcher	...	60
Nickerson	...	Porter	...	32
Collis	...	"	...	37
Cheeseman	...	Butler	...	73
Stanford	...	Janitor	...	68
Griffin	...	Clerk	...	38
Daphne Dorrimead	...	Housemaid	...	28
Marjorie Miller	...	Parlourmaid	...	23
Edith Cundle	...	"	...	44
Mollie Murchison	...	Housemaid	...	28
Flora Christie	...	"	...	20
Iris Horne	...	Kitchenmaid	...	17
Mrs. Jipson	...	Cook	...	40
Mrs. Nickerson	...	Porter's wife	...	...
Werth	...	(author) Manchester Guardian	...	33
Hagen	...	"	...	70
Rutter	...	"	...	66
Steve Swinnerton	...	Fire Watcher	...	65
Charles Lowe	...	Post Warden	...	34
P. C. Ruslin	...	Policeman	...	...

SCENE.

Branch Office of Messrs. Hoare and Co.'s Bank in Fleet Street, London.

(The "Clachan" is a public house).

The principal author of this Tale appears to be N. B. E. W. Hoare, but Mr. Werth, of the "Manchester Guardian", introduces the subject as follows:—

Raid on Saturday, 10th May, 1941.

To those who have had practical experience of fire-fighting in a heavy raid, such as that of May 10th, it is clear that much expensive fire equipment is not necessary. It is, however, essential that there should be a determined fire party and a staunch watcher on the roof. Obviously, a supply of water must be pre-arranged and simple equipment ready to hand.

In order to illuatrate this, the following account of one case in point is written in the hope that it may help to influence those who have not, as yet, done so, to prepare to defend their buildings. It shows that considerable fires were held at bay and checked by small parties in spite of major disasters around.

The facts of this occurrence are as follows :—

Within half-an-hour of the "Alert" it was obvious that a dangerous raid was developing, and the leader of the Fire Party at Messrs. C. Hoare & Co.'s Bank had all the baths and sinks filled with water. He checked the firm's engine and pumps, and tested the internal and external telephone lines, of which the latter was found to be partially out of action, the Exchange having already been hit. A number of incendiary bombs which, a little later, landed on the roofs in the neighbourhood were extinguished by the Fire Parties before any damage was caused.

Then an incendiary from a subsequent "basket" lodged on the top of the Temple Church, next to the parapet on the side nearest to the Bank. It was reported by the Bank to the Wardens' Service in a few seconds by telephone.

Meanwhile, a second fire in Serjeant's Inn and a third in West Harding Street had completed a ring of flame around the neighbourhood, flame that was soon advancing rapidly upon the Bank from the Temple side. The alarm was, therefore, sounded, and everyone within the building summoned to "action stations."

The force thus mustered consisted of eight men and seven women, the only additional aid forthcoming during the night being from two Fire-watchers at the "Manchester Guardian" building, one Fire-watcher at Mitre Buildings, two Police Constables and two strangers. The quantity of fire-fighting equipment used by this force consisted of three garden hoses and five stirrup pumps. The City's water mains having failed, the fire-fighters were dependent upon the Bank's own deep-well pump (capacity 600 gallons per hour), and on storage tanks holding a total of 1,500 gallons. Only one hose could be operated direct off the well-pump, water being relayed along the other hose by means of a corrider pump filled by bucket.

The leader's narrative continues :—

"I returned to our own roof just in time to find the roof of Mitre Court Chambers well alight, and Hagen and Rutter of the "Manchester Guardian" throwing buckets of water over the tarpaulin.

"I left them with Legge and Griffin to look after the East flank, while we returned to the South to defend ourselves against the Master's House. By the time I got down again, the girls had the sparks on the roof under control, and until we had finished on the South side our friends held off the threat to the East with no further anxiety to us below.

"I relieved Edward and Fred on the top roof. All the staff including Cheeseman and Stanford, were getting to work, and one, a stranger, also came and helped, a Mr. Werth of the "Manchester Guardian".

"I deputed the two Porters to drenching the inside of the end wall of the warehouse, and, if possible, the wall of the Master's House, from below. They had not been long at this work when the entire roof of the Master's House caught fire, and the smoke and flames started to blow over us in waves. The sparks, which had been burning at intervals of every three or four feet, started to fall as close together as every three inches at times.

"After a while we had to start retreating from the fire, and the ends of our buildings started to get very hot, and then a part of the Master's House fell in on our side of the wall. In her eagerness to get her jet bearing better on to the burning timber, Marjorie ran forward with her nozzle, and fell off the roof of the record room into the fire. We immediately turned our hoses on to her, but I had a bad moment

when I realised that I could not leave the strongest jet to waste undirected in order to come down from the top to fetch her out, and that the man inside the warehouse might not have heard her scream. It was useless to shout. But in a matter of seconds the Porters were there, and had carried her in to the policeman who looked after her while everyone else carried on. Things did not improve for the next few minutes. The flames and the smoke got more intense, and we were driven back. The roof and walls of our warehouse got so hot that the water we were pouring on dried off as quickly as it fell. Suddenly, the remainder of the roof of the Master's House fell in, and a portion of it fell on our side.

"Again there was an accident at the same spot. Daphne Dorrimead went forward with her nozzle just too far, and fell off the roof into the fire. She too was carried out by our Porters, and the Police rendered first aid.

"The rest of us carried on. Sergeant Curtin came up to see if he could help us on top, and he managed to pour some water and "Incendex" down the face of the wall in the corner nearest to the Church Pastoral Aid Building. After a few more minutes it seemed that Vulcan was propitiated by the double human sacrifice, and we were able to get a little closer again gradually.

"In taking my hose round to the far side of the top roof, I found the Church Pastoral Aid Building on fire, and put it out on two occasions. After this there was much work but little incident. We got back on to the end of our building, and we all knew we were winning. I handed over my hose to Edward while I went up on top to see how we were faring in other directions."

"I found Mrs. Jipson still at the telephone, and Legge with Hagen and Rutter and the roofs on top drenched down and all the sparks out. We could see across the roof of the Mitre Court Buildings Steve Swinnerton, the watcher, doing the same thing. The whole of Serjeant's Inn was ablaze, and the wind was our way. We used all the water we could spare to keep the tanks on top of the "Manchester Guardian" full. When I returned, I had a look at the bent and bulging walls of the Master's House, beneath which we had been working, and decided that the danger of their falling on us was past, and so we spent the next half-hour cooling off our boundary wall, and the first battle was won.

"Some time after 5 a. m. I had a look at our casualties, and finding them asleep, decided against calling for an ambulance until they had had a good rest where they lay.

"I went and saw Thompson, and asked if he could get us any help for the coming fight on our eastern boundary. He fetched the Fire Chief, who had a look at the capacity of our well and declined to spare me any help, as he had only fourteen men himself. He said it was practically hopeless, but wished us good luck with it, and said he would not forget us, but that he considered we were already doing all there was to do.

"The electric current failed, so I turned over on to the "stand-by" engine only, and as a precaution tightened the belt which drives the pump. Edith gave me a cup of tea, and told me there was a cup for everyone. The "All Clear" went at 5-52 a. m. and came as a surprise to us all in the forgotten raid. The telephone bell rang, and it was Mr. Howlett from our Park Lane branch. I told him that things looked desperate and that we were all tired out.

"As a last hope of help, I gave him the number of my A. R. P. Post in Paddington. He rang them, and one of my comrades came to help us, Charles Lowe, who had himself been up all night.

"I then asked everyone to stand to again, and we got a hose up through Mitre Court Chambers on to the roof, and also one from the corridor pump at the bottom of the back stairs. I left Iris Horne putting out the sparks and other small fires on the South boundary, and went across to Thompson again to borrow more hose, which we had to rig up to fit by any means we could devise. Thompson came to give us a hand, and in particular to break open the "Clachan." He had himself been injured earlier in the evening.

"By then the fire had rounded the bottom and corner of Mitre Court and started to sweep up to the "Clachan." We took two hoses across on to the roofs the other side of the Court, and with Thompson's assistance, Lowe and I went along the roof to meet the fire as far away as possible.

"The Porters and Griffin worked the third hose across the Court as long as they could, and also looked after Mitre Court Chambers, which had a narrow gap between them and the flames, and were getting hot as well as being in danger from sparks. Five persons were needed to keep

the corridor pump working, and the rest, including the girls, brought water round from the front door in buckets to fight the fire in the basement of the "Clachan."

"Lowe and I were driven off the first roof almost as soon as we got there. We retired to the next party wall, and tried to take cover from the smoke and flames behind the chimney pots, but the wind was right in our faces, and wet rags over our mouths and faces were insufficient to keep off the fumes. We cut small holes in the roof to give us warning when the rafters were alight beneath us, but even so there was one occasion when Lowe had to take to the parapet because the roof was caving in under him.

"Eventually, we were driven back on to the roof of the "Clachan"; I went down to arrange to cut away the next small roof of the staircase between the "Clachan" and the Mitre Building, which were still defended by Steven alone with his stirrup pump. I met Thompson, who told me that he had warned the other buildings, including the Post Office, to evacuate, and I met a policeman who was doing the same thing. Two "A. F. S." men came up with me again on to our roof and said it was a hopeless battle, and that they could do nothing with less than a dozen hoses. I asked them to help, but they said that they had to get back and that it was not worth trying.

"It did look very bad at that moment. We were driven down off the roof of the "Clachan" and were almost in despair, but aided by Thompson, we doubled our efforts. While some of us got back our hoses from the "Clachan", and, throwing a line to Steve, changed them now to his building, all the others got to work with buckets, and using the tank on the "Manchester Guardian" roof, threw over 400 gallons by the bucket-full across the gap on to the roof.

"Steve was like Casabianca before we could get round to help him. Quite alone and enveloped in smoke and flame, he held the jet on to the far corner of the "Clachan." We joined him, and getting the water along our second hose, started up three or four stirrup pumps to help him.

"We were starting to demolish the intervening building when I heard a shout from Steve, "We were winning." I came out to see no more flames and no more smoke. The wind had changed, and it was floating off in the opposite direction.

"We re-occupied the "Clachan" roof. We advanced on the basement of the "Clachan," and we started damping down and cooling down. In twenty minutes it was clear that we were saved."

Such are the facts, and the lessons inherent in these facts are surely obvious; that where Fire Watchers were not on the alert, properly trained, organised and equipped, a single incendiary bomb caused a fire which totally destroyed a building of the first historical and architectural importance, while, where Fire Watchers were so trained, organised and alert, they were able, with only "first aid" equipment at their disposal, successfully to deal with fires which the Fire Brigade itself considered beyond control.

[*Post Script* by "the Leader's brother".—During the fire seven H. E. bombs dropped within quarter of a mile, but the Fire Party were so busy that they did not notice them!

Sparks set alight the seat of the dignified Cheeseman's trousers; but one of the maids, with great presence of mind, hosed him!]

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

1—1—42 to 8—1—42.

The Russian front.—Three signal successes mark the Russian operations of the week:—(1) the forcing of the river Volkhov, (2) the capture of KALUGA and (3) the occupation of the KERCH peninsula. It will be noticed that these places are vital centres in the north, centre and south of the German line in Russian territory. The first success has driven the enemy 70 miles from LENINGRAD and led to the occupation of HOGLAND ISLAND in the Gulf of FINLAND; the second has broken the back of the enemy's concentration before Moscow, leading subsequently to the recapture of STARITZA, BOROVSK, TIM and MESHCHOVSK, and possibly MOJAISK; while the third, coupled with the landing at EUPATORIA, has paved the way for the relief of SEBASTOPOL, and the impending expulsion of the invader from the CRIMEA itself. The defenders of SEBASTOPOL are now taking the offensive.

The tide has turned.—In the words of Mr. Anthony Eden, the tide has turned, the Russians have now the measure of the foe, and their counter-attacks have developed into a counter-offensive. Hitler who had always liked a war of movement is now getting it back on himself in full measure.

The rout.—M. Maisky who was recently in RUSSIA gives a graphic account of the German rout: 'I was at the front', he says, 'I saw for myself the vast snow-fields littered with German corpses, German tanks and German lorries and all sorts of German equipment. I saw German prisoners clad in miserable *ersatz* uniforms, freezing to death in the icy climate of the Russian winter. I heard the rumble of the retreating armies'.

The enemy's plight.—Mr. Eden who also visited the battle front at KLIN bears further testimony to the miserable condition of the Nazi soldiers. 'They were', he says 'young and not much more than boys—although three of them were N. C. O.'s—ill-clad and suffering bitterly from the cold, with cloths, boots and buttons of poor thin materials and without gloves.

The effects of the British blockade.—Dr. Hugh Dalton, our Minister for economic warfare, aptly points out how General Winter has now joined hands with the British blockade in reducing the enemy. The German soldiers would not have been so poorly clad had there been no British blockade. In fact, the Germans would not suffer so much were it not for the blockade which has pinched them. It is the blockade, as Mr. Hugh Dalton facetiously puts it that has elevated the Russian Winter from the rank of say, 'Corporal' to 'General'. 'I am pleasantly surprised', he adds 'at the poor quality of the German synthetic fibres'. Part of the trouble is due to the German soap which is 75% chalk and 25% only of fat. The British blockade by shutting out fat has made the German not only dirty but cold.

Meanwhile, M. Molotov, Soviet Commissar for Foreign Affairs draws the attention of a horrified world to the robbery and destruction committed by the German forces in occupied RUSSIA, not so much as stray acts of indiscipline of individual soldiers, but as part of the general strategy evolved and sanctioned by the German High Command in order to terrorise and demoralise the population. 'The civil population has been subjected to forced labour, herded in

concentration camps, regardless of age or sex' and made to work for as many as 20 hours a day without food or water. Some of them were also compelled to do work forbidden by international law and subsequently shot dead.

Libya.—BARDIA, as reported last week, has fallen. The Battle for BARDIA was the first regular battle of the Libyan Campaign. The Italians have abandoned the SOLLUM front, and HALFAYA, the sole remaining pocket is being reduced. The enemy is fleeing westward, having abandoned JEDABAYA. TRIPOLI, SICILY and NAPLES have been raided. The Libyan weather is at present 'absolutely frightful' owing to heavy rains.

Malta is now bearing the brunt of heavy enemy air-attacks almost hourly and daily, amounting to about a hundred in 2 weeks. The Axis is no doubt infuriated by the great part the R. A. F. based on MALTA played and plays in cutting off reinforcements to LIBYA.

Far-East.—The three heartening statements of the week are the appointment of General Wavell as the Supreme Commander of the S. W. Pacific Area (2) the entry of Chinese troops into BURMA and (3) Pownall's assurance of considerable help being on its way to MALAYA. INDO-CHINA and THAILAND are significantly included in the Chinese theatre of war, foreshadowing an early offensive in these countries if only to relieve the pressure on the SINGAPORE front.

In Malaya British troops have been withdrawn from the KUANTAN area, but have started an offensive—the first of its kind here—in the KUALA SELANGOR area north of KUALA LUMPUR. The Japanese advance is said to be slowing down. British and American planes have raided RAHENGTAK and BANGKOK in THAILAND.

The enemy has repeated his air-attacks on RANGOON, MOULMEIN and SINGAPORE, and reports are published of foodstuffs being looted, of women being rounded up, and of monasteries and mosques being bombed.

In the **Philippines**, MANILA and the adjacent naval base of CAVITE have fallen to the enemy, who is also bombing CORREGIDOR and MARI VALES in the MANILA BAY. Mac Arthur's forces with their front reduced to a width of ten miles are resisting the Japanese advance, and fighting a delaying action, so important to the Allies in the present stage.

2

China.—The Japanese, who claimed a few days ago to have taken CHANGSHA, capital of HUNAN, have been defeated and routed with a loss of some 7,000 men. 40,000 Japanese troops are now reported to have been trapped between the Rivers Laotao and Linyang, like 'rats in a bag'. This signal defeat has the effect of preventing Japanese reinforcements being transported from CANTON to MALAYA.

The Japanese are said to have landed in N. BORNEO at WESTON, and bombed the Australian air force in RABAUL, NEW GUINEA, and BELAWAN DELI in SUMATRA. British aircraft have raided KAPING AMARANGI in the CAROLINE ISLANDS, administered by JAPAN as a mandatory.

Finland.—Reports are published that FINLAND is throwing out feelers for peace. Field Marshal Mannerheim recently declared that FINLAND's strategic goal has now been reached, but the truth is that in recent actions the Finns have not only failed to advance further, but on the contrary the Russians have penetrated into Finnish territory. The present German retreat should also have had a sobering effect on FINLAND. But she has chosen the wrong moment. Earlier she would have had the support of BRITAIN and AMERICA, who advised her to seek peace; now it must be as RUSSIA decides in consultation with BRITAIN and AMERICA.

The Allied Pact.—26 countries, comprising 4/5 ths of the human race, have signed a *Joint Declaration* at WASHINGTON pledging to use all their resources in men and material against the Axis till final victory is won, and not to conclude any separate armistice or peace. In this Pact the biggest countries of the world have joined—BRITAIN and the BRITISH EMPIRE, the U. S., RUSSIA and CHINA. This Greatest Coalition of Powers—the first grand move for the New Year, is a tremendous step towards victory, before which the Three-Power Pact of the Axis gangsters and their satellites and victims pales into contemptible insignificance.

A joint Allied Information Council has also been set up.

The Lofoten Islands off the Norwegian Coast, German-occupied, were raided for several days by British Commandoes and Norwegian troops. A German patrol vessel was sunk, and a number of Germans and quislings were taken prisoners.

On January 6th another successful raid was carried out on the Norwegian Coast by the combined action of the Royal Navy and the R. A. F.

Naval.—In an enemy attack during December 17—21 on a British convoy in the Atlantic, the British destroyer *Stanley* and the auxiliary vessel *Audacity* were lost, along with two merchant-ships but the rest of the convoy—28 out of 30 reached their destination safely. At least three of the attacking U-boats and two of the hostile aircraft were sunk. The enemy as usual exaggerated the British loss by 600%. The *Audacity* was originally the German merchantman *Hanover*, which was intercepted and taken in prize and renamed.

America is roused.—In a stirring message sent to the Congress on the 6th, President Roosevelt referred to the great meeting which he had held off and on for a fortnight with Mr. Churchill, and said that they had been in collaboration over the question of a unified strategy and command, as well as of co-ordinated production. The President foreshadowed an increase of taxation for war purposes, a seven day week and longer working hours to increase armaments production, and a 50% allotment of the revenue to the war effort. In outlining AMERICA'S determination to conduct the war to the finish he stated:—

"The war programme for the coming year will cost 56 billion dollars. This means that it will be a long war, a bloody war, a costly war.

"We shall meet the enemy wherever we can reach him. We must keep him far from our shores, for we intend to bring this battle to him, in his home grounds.

"American armed forces must be used at any place in all the world where it seems advisable to engage the forces of the enemy. In some cases these operations will be defensive in order to protect key positions.

"In other cases, the operations will be offensive, in order to strike at the common enemy with a view to his complete encirclement, and eventual total defeat.

"The American armed forces will operate at many points in the Far East. They will operate in all the oceans, helping to guard essential communications which are vital to the United Nations.

"AMERICAN LAND, AIR AND SEA FORCES WILL TAKE STATIONS IN THE BRITISH ISLES, WHICH CONSTITUTE THE ESSENTIAL FORTRESS OF THIS WORLD STRUGGLE. AMERICAN FORCES WILL HELP TO PROTECT THIS HEMISPHERE ALSO.

WE CAN ALSO TAKE IT.

"No matter what our enemies in their desperation may attempt to do to us, we will say, as the people of Britain have said: 'We can take it'; and what is more we can give it back—and we will give it back, with compound interest.

"Many people ask when this war will end. There is only one answer to that.

"It will end just as soon as we make it end by our combined efforts, our combined strength, our combined determination to fight through and work through until the end of militarist Japan, Germany and Italy.

"Certainly, we shall not settle for less."

Astronomical.—In a 'War Budget' message sent to the Congress President Roosevelt estimates that the total war expenditure of the U. S. for the year (1943) will be 56,000 million dollars (Rs. 18,620 crores) with a *monthly* expenditure of over 5,000 million dollars (Rs. 15,600 crores), against 26,000 million dollars (annual) and 2,000 million dollars (monthly) for this year (1942). Steps are being taken also to increase armaments production to 60,000 planes, 45,000 tanks, 20,000 anti-aircraft guns and 8 million tons of shipping this year (1942) rising respectively to 125,000 planes, 75,000 tanks, 35,000 anti-aircraft guns and 10 million tons of shipping next year (1943). President Roosevelt, in announcing these astronomical figures, significantly adds that AMERICA is prepared to spend even more, to pay 'whatever price may be necessary to crush the foe.' He states 'we cannot out-fight our enemies, unless at the same time we out-produce our enemies. We must out-produce overwhelmingly.'

Free Rumania.—At last freedom-loving Rumanians have formed themselves into a committee and joined the Allied group, with ex-king Carol at their head. One of their objects will be to frustrate the Nazi attempt to get king Michael married early.

Free Thailand—The Thais also have inaugurated a Free Thai movement within THAILAND, in order to help BRITAIN and defeat the Japanese attempt at domination.

A likely Abdication.—In answer to the Nazi demand for the enforcement of anti-Jewish laws in DENMARK, the Danish Cabinet has turned down the proposal: 6 ministers were against and 3 for the proposal, and King Christian of DENMARK has threatened to abdicate.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
29—12—41. (Monday).				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—				
	Shipping at LA PALLICE.		1 fighter.	
	LIBYA.			
	Buildings, huts and other objectives in the JADABAYA region. **Enemy motorised transport and a landing ground** south of JADABAYA. **Enemy positions** within the BARDIA Perimeter. **Enemy mechanised transport** on the coastal roads between HOMS and MISURATA and between ZUARA and TRIPOLI. **Objectives** at ZUARA.	Very heavy damage.	2 planes.	
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		3 planes.	8 planes.
	(By British and American planes.)			
	FAR EAST.			
	Reconnaissances over enemy and enemy-occupied territories.			
30—12—41. (Tuesday)				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY :—				
	The Naval base at BREST.			
NIGHT :—				
	Shipping at LA PALLICE.		No loss.	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
30—12—41. (Tuesday)—*cont.*				
	LIBYA.			
	Enemy motorised and armoured formations in the JADABAYA region.	Many vehicles damaged.		1 plane.
	Enemy defensive positions in BARDIA.			
	An aerodrome barracks and a transport shed at MISURATA.			
	GREECE.			
	Munition factories and a submarine base at SALAMIS.			
	Chemical works and oil installations at PIRAEUS.			
	CRETE.			
	An aerodrome at HERAKLION.		2 planes.	
	Military objectives at MALEME.			
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.			4 planes.
	(By British and American planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	THAILAND.			
	Aerodrome at SUNGEI PATANI.	Fires started.		
31—12—41. (Wednesday).				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	No information available.			
	LIBYA.			
	Motorised and armoured units in the JADABAYA region.			
	The landing ground at ARAE PHILAENORUM.			
	The Jetty at RAS EL AALI ...		2 planes.	
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		4 planes.	31 planes.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
31—12—41.	**(Wednesday)**—*cont.*			
	FAR EAST.			
	MALAYA.			
	Enemy Positions on the PERAK Front.			
1—1—42.	**(Thursday).**			
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EURORE.			
	No information available as to day and night operations.			
	LIBYA.			
	Enemy mechanised units in the JADABAYA region.			
	Air combats over JADABAYA region.			4 planes.
	Enemy concentrations between EL AGHEILA and NOFILA.	Motor vehicles destroyed.		
	Shipping in the Gulf of SIRTE.	1 vessel directly hit.		
	TRIPOLI		2 planes.	
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		9 planes.	28 planes.
	(By British and American planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	MALAYA.			
	Enemy aerodrome at GONG (KEDAH).	Big fires started.		
	Shipping off THAILAND ...			
2—1—42.	**(Friday).**			
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
	DAY :—			
	Offensive patrols over the ENGLISH CHANNEL and the FRENCH coast.		2 planes.	3 planes.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
2—1—42. (Friday.)—*cont.*				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE—*cont.*			
NIGHT :—				
	The Naval bases at BREST and ST. NAZAIRE. **Laying mines** in enemy waters ...		No loss.	
	LIBYA.			
	Air combats over JADABAYA region.			
	Enemy motor transport between EL AGHEILA and SIRTE.	Several petrol tankers destroyed.		
	The main quay, power station and a wireless station at TRIPOLI.			
	A 5000 ton vessel off the coast of TRIPOLITANIA.	Sunk.		
	ITALY.			
	A railway station and the main airframe factory at NAPLES.	Big fires started.		
	(By Russian planes).			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		No loss.	5 planes.
	(By British and American planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	KAPING AMERANGI (CAROLINE Islands).			
	MALAYA.			
	Reconnaissance over occupied area.			
3—1—42. (Saturday).				
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
NIGHT :—				
	The docks at BREST			
	Laying mines in Enemy waters.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
3—1—42.	**(Saturday)**—*cont*			
	LIBYA.			
	Enemy motor transport between EL-AGHEILA and SIRTE.	Motor vehicles damaged.		
	The jetty and motor transport at RAS EL AALI.			
	Supply dumps, barracks and motor transport at BEURAT EL HSUN.	Heavy damage.		
	GREECE.			
	Enemy submarine base, munitions factories and ordnance workshops at SALAMIS.			
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodrome along the whole Front.		5 planes.	19 planes.
	(By British and American planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	Enemy shipping off the west coast of MALAYA.			
	THAILAND.			
	The aerodrome at RAGHENTAK.			7 fighters.
4—1—42.	**(Sunday).**			
	(By British planes).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.			
DAY :—				
	Railway communications and other objectives in NORTH-WEST GERMANY.			
	A warehouse, lockgates and a Canal and German Soldiers in Northern FRANCE.			
NIGHT :—				
	No information available.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.	Aircraft losses for the enemies.
4—1—42. (Sunday)—*cont.*				
	LIBYA.			
	Enemy defensive positions in the HALFAYA region.			
	Gun positions at BEURAT EL HSUN.			
	The jetty at RAS EL ALI.			
	Motor transport vehicles on the road between SIRTE and BEURAT EL HSUN.			
	GREECE.			
	The submarine base at SALAMIS.		No loss.	
	(By Russian planes).			
	EASTERN FRONT.			
	Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the whole Front.		11 planes.	41 planes.
	(By British and American planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	THAILAND.			
	An aerodrome in THAILAND.		3 planes.	
	MALAYA.			
	Reconnaissance over the rear of the Japanese positions.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
30—12—41. (Tuesday)				
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
NIGHT :—				
	A town in North-East ENGLAND.	Some damage and a few casualties.		
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	MALTA.	Many more planes damaged.	2 planes.	

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
30—12—41. (Tuesday)—*cont.*				
	(By Japanese planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	PHILIPPINES.			
MANILA.				
	MALAYA.			
SINGAPORE.		Slight damage.		
31—12—41. (Wednesday)				
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
No information available.				
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.				
	(By Japanese planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	MALAYA.			
SINGAPORE (twice raided).		Slight damage.		
Allied communications in MALAYA.			1 plane.	
1—1—42. (Thursday)				
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
NIGHT :—				
A few points near the South-East Coast of ENGLAND.		Slight damage; 1 person injured.		
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
MALTA.				
	(By Japanese planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	MALAYA.			
British communications behind the Front.				
2—1—42. (Friday)				
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
No information available.				
	(By Japanese planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	MALAYA.			
SINGAPORE.				

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
2—1—42. (Friday.)—*cont.*				
		PHILIPPINES.		
	CORRIGIDOR Island.		3 planes.	
		SUMATRA.		
	The harbour at BELAUAN-DELI.			
		(By German planes).		
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.			
3—1—42. (Saturday)				
		(By German planes).		
		BRITAIN.		
	No information available.			
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.			
		RUSSIA.		
	Moscow		2 planes.	
		(By Japanese planes).		
		FAR EAST.		
		MALAYA.		
	SINGAPORE.			
		BURMA.		
	Aerial fight over an airport in MOULMEIN area.		7 planes.	
		DUTCH EAST-INDIES.		
	An aerodrome in the outer provinces.			
		PHILIPPINES.		
	CORRIGIDOR Island in MANILA Bay. **An area** north of MANILA.		4 planes.	
4—1—42. (Sunday.)				
		(By German planes).		
		BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—			
	A place on the North-East coast of ENGLAND.	A few casualties.		
		RUSSIA.		
	MOSCOW.		12 planes.	
		MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA.			

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Enemy aircraft losses.	Aircraft losses for the Allies.
4—1—42.	**(Sunday.)**—*cont.*			
	(By Japanese planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	PHILIPPINES.			
	Corrigidor Island (Manila Bay).		4 planes.	
	MALAYA.			
	Singapore.			
	Selangor.		1 plane.	
5—1—42.	**(Monday).**			
	(By German planes).			
	BRITAIN.			
DAY :—				
	A country area between two towns in South-East Coast of ENGLAND.		1 plane.	
	IRELAND.			
DAY :—				
	A point in Northern IRELAND.			
	RUSSIA.			
	Moscow.			
	MEDITERRANEAN.			
	Malta.	Many more planes damaged.	1 plane.	
	(By Japanese planes).			
	FAR EAST.			
	BURMA.			
	Rangoon area.			
	PACIFIC.			
	A Dutch submarine off an Island in NATUNA ARCHIPELAGO.			

SIDE LIGHTS.

MOTTO. The Japanese have their tails right up. FRANCE writhes and pleads. BULGARIA (though not by herself) threatens TURKEY. Hitler may make war 'by telephone', as the saying goes, on SPAIN, PORTUGAL and the French North African ports, and an intensification of the Atlantic sea-war or even an invasion of ENGLAND are by no means an impossibility.

I am reminded by a quotation from a recent article by Mr. Wickham Steed of the right way to regard the situation, and the foamings of the Axis. He recalls the classic remark of a very great soldier—and victor—Marshal (then General) Foch at the MARNE, in the last war. "My left flank is in retreat. My right flank has fallen back. My centre cannot hold on. *Excellent* situation—I attack !!"

Not that things in general are anything like as bad as that for the Allies! But the aphorism may well have been recalled in the recent WASHINGTON discussions on a grand combined strategy. It's a fairly safe bet that "attack" is a common word in the Allies' 1942 programme.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

HITLER and RUSSIA. "What's the good of being right when the others are all wrong ?". This is a quotation from Field Marshal Von Brauschitz, the only one, apparently, of the Army Command who attempted to divert Hitler from the last Russian gamble. Now he's gone, and a corporal has taken over a situation which only a miracle can restore—after sacking three or four more Marshals to keep Von Brauschitz company !

Early in 1941 Hitler promised his armies and his people "the greatest victory in our history". The year ended with his armies in retreat on both the vital fronts where they were engaged.

By September, for the sake of morale and prestige, MOSCOW HAD to fall. 50 German divisions, plus enormous forces of tanks and transport, were massed for "the grand final assault". (*Damn Von Brauschitz and his 'stabilisation'!*)

The trains and the buses and the restaurants and the theatres still run in MOSCOW—and all the more merrily for the removal of the enemy threat 100 miles further off !

Hm ! May be there's some sense in that stabilisation idea. All right. Dig in, and recuperate thoroughly for an irresistible Spring offensive. I've shoved Japan into the war, and 'stabilisation' will mean that I can withdraw useful armies for compensating thrusts elsewhere.

But the Russians think otherwise. They attack and attack. They smooth out bulges in the line. Guerillas and a greatly-growing air-force harass the long German communications unceasingly. A long retreat has become a wide offensive. And grim winter bites agonizingly into the vitals of the invaders. What can be borne in a last reaching-out for victory and rest, becomes intolerable in restless withdrawal, and precarious supplies, inadequate clothing, and the slaughter-without-guns of epidemics, on top of *colossal* casualties, are telling heavily on the morale of the German troops.

And so the megalomaniac plays his last card. *"So they've failed," he seems to say. "Very well. I take over myself. I am Hitler. The plan is mine. Something dramatic, something sensational will do the trick. My troops and my people have as blind a belief in my infallibility as I have.* **Ach so,** *I command!" (What did you say, Goebbels? Some of the gods are smiling?! Very well. Himmler has doubtless got Gestapo men in Valhalla. Arrange a purge!)*

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

ODD!! Hitler's dramatic assumption of personal command was communicated by a proclamation which in its wording was a little curious. In the first place, he made a direct appeal to his troops *over the heads of the professional generals.* Secondly, S. S. troops were bracketed in the proclamation *but as a distinct and separate entity.* Was this a deliberate hint that the Fuehrer had a sworn organization of his own to attend to the safety of his person and the loyalty of the Reichswehr?

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

GLOBAL ALLIANCE. Without going so far as to suggest that the Axis is yet in as desperate straits as was BRITAIN and a small group of exiled governments, when they faced the world alone in mid-1940, one cannot help marvelling at the swing-over of the odds. It is now GERMANY and her Axis dupes who must feel lonely, with four-fifths of the world's population against them.

Nor is the new global alliance a matter of high-sounding intentions. The ease and speed of the new co-operation instituted in WASHINGTON recalls the last (of four) Coalitions against Napoleon—the successful one. Meeting Roosevelt and Churchill were M. Litvinov, Dr. Hu Hsi, Mr. Mackenzie King and the Australian Minister, whose chief, Mr. Curtin was also in close touch by cable. At the same time, Eden was seeing Stalin, and Wavell Chiang Kai Shek.

Nor did we have long to wait for results. No jealousies, suspicions, diffidences or differences seem to have affected the resolution and confidence of the conference. Americans (General Brett and Admiral Hart) gladly serve a Britisher (Wavell) in the South-West Pacific; Chiang Kai Shek's genius is recognised north and west of Wavell; Australian and American strategy are

combined. The anti-Axis front has become a *real* world-confederacy, and the first shoots of the seed sown have already appeared above ground. American fighters have helped the defence of RANGOON; Indian troops are in the CAUCASUS; the Chinese gave HONG-KONG timely and useful help in spite of grave difficulties; British and American aid pours into RUSSIA; and the Russians scorn the winter, to hammer and uproot and bury the Germans.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

ANOTHER JAPANESE MISTAKE? Retribution, long and now increasingly overdue, will doubtless fall upon JAPAN from the Allies. But it may be wondered whether even her friend and mentor, GERMANY, can be any too *pleased* with her antics. If the information in the hands of the U. S. Government is to be believed, JAPAN has NOT played her hand as GERMANY wished. JAPAN had promised to attack RUSSIA at the most convenient moment, and now, when surely the attack would be most welcome to Hitler, the war-lords of Nippon have embarked on a prodigious gamble, by land, sea and air, some thousands of miles south! It seems almost impossible that she can extricate herself in time to do the German armies in RUSSIA any good, even if she is more or less prepared to defend herself from Russian attack in her MANCHUKUO outpost.

▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼ ▼

AN OLD PRINCIPLE. I suppose that every military text-book ever published contains the maxim that the side with *internal* lines of communication has the advantage over that which has only external ones. A powerful army, concentrated, yet mobile, is in a position to bring to bear—either for attack or defence—superior force in a given (or even as in Hitler's case, more than one) direction, *in a shorter time* than its opponents on the 'circumference'. The maxim has hitherto held good of land armies; it is natural that it should also hold good in aerial warfare.

It is impossible yet to get a clear picture of the enormous Far Eastern battlefield, as far as air strength and airfields are concerned, but so far the Allies seem always to have been at a disadvantage. The difficulty is temporary; no two, or three, Axis Powers or their serf-nations, can hope to cope with the plane output of the A. B. C. D. front for much longer. (Please see next paragraph). But at the moment the Japanese, after years of rapid and secret preparation, hold the interior lines, and either by air or by sea, can throw in their air forces more quickly and tellingly than we can.

As usual, Mr Churchill's luminous mind enables him to put the present matter in a nutshell. "If people ask me" he says "—as they have a right to ask me in ENGLAND—why is it that you have not got an ample equipment of

modern aircraft, and army equipment of all kinds in MALAYA and the EAST INDIES, I can only point to the victory General Auchinleck has gained in the Libyan campaign. Had we diverted and dispersed our gradually growing resources between LIBYA and MALAYA, we should have been found wanting in both theatres." And he might have added, perhaps, that unless British and American plane and tank output had not been so speedily supplied to the Russians, the Germans might still be threatening MOSCOW and LENINGRAD.

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

HITLER'S NIGHTMARE. Remember again, the war is ONE. Military principles are not absolute, but comparative. Interior lines give an *advantage*, but not necessarily final victory. One principle, however, is so absolute as to be axiomatic, namely that the side which can last longest in man-power and produce most engines of war by productive power, MUST ultimately overcome the side that is inferior in these respects, especially when its cause is so just and necessary as to ensure the maintenance of unflagging morale.

For our comfort, therefore, let us glance at some recent plane-production figures published by the American expert, T. P. Wright (whose elaborately-supported estimates for 1941 proved so eminently reliable).

For AMERICA, he estimates 1942 output at 39,000 planes. For 1943, this figure rises to 49,000. BRITAIN will put 22,800 planes into service this year, making a 1942 total for the two Allies of *nearly 62,000 planes*. GERMANY's total resources (with all her captured factories) he estimates at 27,600. He does not mention the Japanese, but whatever her reserve or her standing strength, her 1942 *output* must be comparatively small, so lacking is she in many essential materials. So much for planes. Add the following, AMERICA'S steel production is *15 times* greater than that of JAPAN. Her capacity for munition output is *greater* than *that of all EUROPE put together.*

With an unified production policy, and an unified command to use those products, is not this the sort of argument with which to overcome the 'interior lines' principle?

v v v v v v v v v v v v v

LESSONS FROM RANGOON. In the first Japanese raid on RANGOON, there was no military damage of any importance. There were civilian casualties, because people were foolish enough to try and watch the air-battles instead of taking cover.

In the second raid, the Japanese had a surprise. Instead of nice, *cushy* bombing of helpless civilians, they met with such effective resistance that they lost *twenty* of their planes, quite a respectable proportion of their whole force.

4

Since the effective range of fighter-planes is not much more than 300 miles, it may be assumed that the escorts to the Bomber-force came from THAI airfields. CALCUTTA or MADRAS is considerably further away from RANGOON than RANGOON is from THAILAND—something like double the distance.

Bombers, doubtless, can fly much further, but if they do, they will have to fly *unaccompanied*—greatly to their risk.

It is perfectly fair, therefore, to suggest that while an occasional long-range night raid might be undertaken against the coasts of INDIA in the hope of damaging civilian morale, effective air-warfare against Indian towns is *impossible*, unless the Japanese secure much nearer bases.

V V V V V V V V V V V V V

THE "V" DIARY. The Bureau are gratified to report that the sales of this booklet now exceed 3,600 copies. A purely local effort has attracted wide and complimentary notice, but better than this, it has also provided some Rs. 3,000 for War funds, which, as the saying goes is better than a slap in the stomach with a wet fish !

NEW YEAR PROSPECTS.

A broadcast from London by the B. B. C.'s Military Commentator ***Major Lewis Hastings.***

NINETEEN FORTY ONE has been a year of apocalypse, a year of gigantic battles and of epic shifts of fortune. But it has been more than that. It has brought about the final alignment of the great remaining masses of population and forces of power. And without any doubt, the supreme achievement on the Allied side is that which derives from the recent historic discussions between our war leaders. The change in the war situation from Christmas Week 1940 to the present day could not be better illustrated than by these momentous meetings at Washington, Moscow and Chungking.

At the moment great battles are still in progress both in the East and in the West, and the immediate consequences of these may be far-reaching ; but the totality of their effect on the conduct of the war sinks into insignificance in comparison with the mounting force of the Allied participants in the struggle, now combined in common policy.

LOOK AT THE MAP.

Look back to this time last year. Neither Britain nor the nations stamped in the dust by the Nazis ever really lost hope and faith, but it was a drab landscape that we saw from this island in the closing days of 1940—the brown fog over all Europe. And now what is the picture? Moscow............... Chungking.........Washington.........You may get some sort of idea of the extent of the change as you look at the map.

That immensity known as Soviet Russia, which a year ago was an enigma, is now solid against Hitler, and so are the United States of America. In terms of man for man and of population, it's a profoundly discouraging spectacle that now faces the Nazis. East of them is a vast block of the world's surface. European Russia and Siberia, India and China are now united against the Axis. Along with them, in the West, is now the United States, which, with the Dominion of Canada and friendly nations in the South, make up by far the bulk of the two Americas. So much for the map. But, in order to arrive at an accurate balance sheet for the end of the year, there are other things to be considered. These things are: first, the actual war situation, and second, the character and quality of the reinforcements that 1941 has brought to the Allied cause.

FOUR MAIN ASPECTS.

The war situation is best seen in its four main aspects—the Atlantic, the Eastern Front, the Mediterranean and the Pacific. First, the *Atlantic.* Here the battle has taken a turn greatly to our advantage. This life-line, as the Prime Minister has witnessed, is more secure than it has been for many months. On the *Eastern Front,* something has occurred of towering significance. Here we have the main enemy —the fount and origin of all evil—in ignominious retreat. This immense achievement is not to be measured only by its material effects. The greatest Russian victory is in the impalpable region of morale and prestige. The Nazi necromancers have been debunked. Never again will Goebbels' gang be able to hypnotise the world with the legend of invincibility.

And then the *Mediterranean.* Here also the tide has turned against the Nazis. Rommel's hand-picked panzer troops have run 300 miles, and what is left of them is in jeopardy. The lesson is there again for all men to read. British and Indian and Dominion soldiers, as well as our comrades the Poles and Free French, have seen the backs of the Huns, and they know by experience that, given equal weapons, they are more than his match.

So far then as these three great battle zones are concerned, the picture at the turn of the year is more encouraging than anyone last June would have dared to hope. We all know that the desperate ruffians in Berlin have built

up huge reserves of strength, and are bound to try to regain their lost prestige. A new storm is probably gathering now over one or other of the war zones. But the fact remains that in the warfare on land our Russian allies and ourselves have given the Nazi machine of destruction its first calamitous jolt.

THE PACIFIC.

Now about the *Pacific.* Here there is a different picture, a chastening and melancholy picture. The Japanese have gained a great initial victory. They have seized strategic positions which give them an overwhelming advantage in the China Sea, and all that is implied in that. They are strongly encroaching on the Philippines and the Malay Peninsula. Further success in these regions will make the Allied task a long and formidable one.

It would be inopportune to speculate about the measures being taken to deal with this dangerous situation, but at any rate this much can be said. From the point of view of the Axis and its accomplices, the Pacific is the only war zone where the gangsters can find any consolation at the end of 1941, and whatever the measure of our losses there, over against them can be set the gigantic increase in the war potential of the forces of freedom, brought about by the adhesion to the Allied cause of Soviet Russia and the United States.

BARTERING SPACE FOR TIME.

It is only now that the world is able to realise the latent strength and enormous recuperative power of Russia. Six months ago Hitler planned to crush Russian resistance before winter, as the prelude to a tiger-spring on the British Isles in the New Year. In these six months Russia has lost heavily, but if you add moral loss to material, the Germans have lost far more. Wisely, Joseph Stalin has bartered space for time. And in the United States, as I have emphasised before, it is not so much that the United States are now in the war as the way they are in it. The infamous trickery that led up to Hawaii accomplished in an hour what otherwise might have taken years to do.

The most productive, most highly industrialised, most inventive nation on earth is now indissolubly united in an iron determination to crush Hitlerism and all it stands for. The final and effective reply to the Japanese and their Axis associates will be given by the factories, shipyards and assembly lines of North America. With a steel production 15 times that of Japan, and a capacity for producing engines of war greater than that of all Europe, the Americans are now roused to the forte of war activity. Beside this Himalayan surge of national strength, the Japanese success in the Pacific will in time appear a brittle and overnight exploit.

So 1941 ends with the Swastika muddied and drooping in the West, with the Allied forces rallying to meet the new onslaught in the East, and with the combined war production of the free nations on the eve of unprecedented expansion.

JAPANESE DREAMS.
CONQUEST OF THE UNITED STATES.
WHAT GENERAL SATO SAID IN HIS BOOK.
ATTEMPT TO PUT PROGRAMME INTO EFFECT?

By

Joseph Kalmer.

Japan attacked without declaring war, and in doing so, remains true to her piratical tradition.

Just as, on December 7, an American vessel was sunk by a Japanese submarine without a previous declaration of hostilities, so did Japan's first imperialist war (1894/5) against China begin without a declaration of war with the torpedoing of the *Kowshin*, a Chinese ship with 1,200 men on board.

The Russo-Japanese war of 1904 similarly began with a Japanese attack on the Russian navy, and on that occasion, too, there was no previous declaration of hostilities.

The attack on Manchuria in September, 1931, and the Chinese "incident" which began on July 7, 1936, were neither of them preceded by any declaration of war.

PREPARING FOR 20 YEARS?

Now Japan has attacked the United States. **She has been preparing for this ever since the Washington Conference of 1922.** Since that set-back to her imperialistic plans, her army and navy have never rested.

Under American pressure, Japan was obliged to withdraw from Siberia, and had to give an undertaking not to increase her fleet beyond three-fifths of the United States navy. She had given a like undertaking to Great Britain, so that, in practice, the Japanese navy was reduced to three-tenths of the combined naval forces of Britain and America.

Further, Japan had had to promise to respect the integrity of China, and until the attack on Manchuria, did so.

Her withdrawal from the League of Nations, notified by Mr. Matsuoka the Japanese delegate at the time, and her denunciation of her naval agreement with Britain and the United States concluded at the London Naval

Conference of 1936, left Japan a free hand in naval rearmament. She began by building feverishly, though her naval programme was kept secret. Of her intentions there was no secret at all.

"JAPAN MUST FIGHT BRITAIN."

"Japan must fight Britain", a book by Tohda Ishimaru, a Japanese officer, foreshadowed Japan's southward advance exactly on the lines demanded by General Tanaka in his infamous memorial to the Emperor of July, 1927. This book describes in great detail all intended operations including an attack on Singapore based on Thailand. Translated into English, the book found many readers throughout the English-speaking world.

Less well known abroad is another book by General Kiyakatsu. This has not been translated in spite of its arresting title, "Imminence of war between Japan and the United States."

GENERAL SATO THINKS.

Sato's book, which was published in the spring of 1940, calls an attack on "the vital strategic point" of Hawaii "the first necessary operation in a war between America and Japan". "Success or failure in a struggle for this strategic point will prove a decisive factor in the war. With the Hawaiian Islands as her base of operations, America could bomb Tokyo or Osaka without much difficulty, provided she used aircraft of superior quality".

Hawaii lies something like midway between America and Japan. From Hawaii to San Francisco is 2,098 miles; from Hawaii to Japan 3,385 miles.

IMPORTANCE OF HAWAII.

"As long as Hawaii is in American possession", General Sato says, "Japan would have to remain on the defensive. If, on the contrary, Japan could occupy the Islands, her fleet would be in a position not only to assume the offensive but also to bomb cities on the west coast of America. In a war with America, therefore, we must seize Hawaii at all costs, even at the price of a few warships".

In her opening offensive Japan followed this programme. The Hawaiian Islands were attacked by 150 Japanese aircraft. Losses were sustained by both sides.

SECOND ITEM IN PROGRAMME.

What further operations the Japanese navy can undertake, and they must be decisive ones, remains to be seen. The United States Pacific fleet cannot be taken unawares, and so the second item on General Sato's programme, the destruction of the Panama Canal, to cut off supplies and reinforcements from the Atlantic, falls literally into the waters of anything but the peaceful Pacific. Further, the arrest of all Japanese nationals in Panama excludes the possibility of Fifth Column activities.

When Sato published his book in early 1940, he even imagined a complete conquest of the United States. To us such a dream may seem absurd and unreal, but our experience of Hitler gives it some semblance of possibility. The plan exists, even though General Sato assumes a war of six or seven years' duration.

ANOTHER MISCALCULATION.

And there is another factor which General Sato left out of account. **When, the book was written, Japan had reason to suppose that the British Navy would be too busily engaged in fighting Germany to count as an opponent in the Pacific. Here the Japanese miscalculated. Great Britain, China, the Dutch Indies and the Dominions are fighting alongside of America. And it is only a question of time before Russia appears on the Pacific front, and bombers from Vladivostok rain incendiaries on the wooden and paper buildings of Japanese cities.**

Japan tried to gain time by negotiation. But Roosevelt, by the freezing of credits, economic blockade, in fact, brought home to the Japanese that they could store up no further supplies for the day of attack. Japan started war while Roosevelt was doing everything possible to avert an open conflict. The line-up between democracies and dictator States is now complete.

A "REVOLUTION BY CONSENT"

BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S NEW MAN-POWER PROPOSALS.

WIDE EXTENSION OF LIABILITY FOR NATIONAL SERVICE.

CHANGED SYSTEM OF RESERVATION FOR INDUSTRIAL WORK.

by

Herbert Tracey

(*of the British Trades Union Congress*).

By a coincidence which may or may not have been foreseen, the new far-reaching measures for man-power mobilisation in Britain synchronised with Japan's declaration of war upon America. For three days just before this stupendous event, the British House of Commons debated the Government's new man-power proposals. They are of a most revolutionary significance, but they have been accepted practically without demur by trade unions, partly

because trade union representatives were associated with the formulation of new plans, and trade union recommendations for safeguarding the work-people affected have been accepted. The projected changes are of the most sweeping kind. But they are taking effect without the smallest perceptible jolt in employer-union-Government relations.

CHANGES OF TWO KINDS.

The changes are of two kinds: (1) A wide extension of liability for compulsory national service, affecting both men and women; (2) a radical modification of the system of reservation for industrial employment, as against the claims of military service.

Conscription for the armed services has hitherto been confined to men of military age, the age limits being from 19 to 41. Practically all these age groups have been called up, leaving in industry only those men of military age who have been reserved on an occupational basis for jobs of national importance. The Government have now tabled a Bill to extend liability for military service to men up to the age of 51, and also to women from the age of 20 to 51, with the provision that immediate liability for women will fall only upon the age groups from 20 to 41. Simultaneously, the system of bloc reservation for war trades is to be abandoned, and a new method of individual reservation will come into operation for both men and women in war industry.

CONSCRIPTION OF WOMEN.

The conscription of women for military service is an innovation which has been accepted without a tremor of public feeling. Such safeguards have been agreed to by the Government, that there is no serious apprehension of any dangers or difficulties arising in the application of compulsion to women for enrolment in the forces.

Women aged 20 to 30 are to be called up for the Women's Royal Naval Service, the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service, the Women's Auxiliary Air Force or any civil defence force. They will be given the option of service in any of these auxiliary organisations, in the civil defence services or certain specified vacancies in industries. No married woman is to be called up, although they may volunteer. Exception is also provided for any woman who has living with her a child of her own under the age of 14 or a stepchild, adopted child or illegitimate child. Women engaged in vital war work or service will be reserved from the call-up—but this brings into sight the other major change in the system of reservation for industrial employment.

RESERVATION ON INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

The reservation of both men and women on an occupatioal basis is to be discontinued, and henceforth those who are engaged in key jobs will have to claim a

deferment of calling-up notices on an individual basis, these claims being decided by district man-power boards. Re-reservation is to take place on the present schedule of reserved occupations in rapid stages. The present age limits of all categories is to be raised by one year every month, so that men reserved at the age of 35 (say) will reach the upper limit 41 in six months time.

Man-power boards which are to deal with applications for deferment number 45. They will be composed of representatives of the Service and Supply Departments, that is to say, the Labour Supply Officer, the Military Recruiting Officer, the Deferment Officer, the Woman-Power Officer and a Chairman. These are all Government appointees. It does not by any means follow that when a board rejects an application for deferment the applicant will be transferred at once to military service.

HOW MEN WILL BE CHOSEN.

Men of sedentary occupation above the age of 41 are not to be considered as fit for military service. Most of them will be transferred, no doubt, to other civilian vacancies if they belong to certain scarcity occupations ; alternatively, they will enter the forces, to release younger and fitter men from static and semi-civilian work—clerical occupations and the like—for mobile active service posts. The same idea will apply to women. It is the younger, fitter and detached women who will be drafted into the forces. No woman will generally be regarded as available for employment away from her home, if she is the wife of a man serving in the armed forces or the merchant navy, or is a married woman with household responsibilities.

The fundamental purpose of these new man-power arrangements is to fit to an appropriate job every man and woman, with due regard to their personal responsibilities, domestic obligations and industrial capacity. It is a revolution in the control of the nations' reserves of man-power, but it is a revolution by consent—and all the more significant on that account.

THE GHETTOES OF EUROPE.

CONGESTION AND LACK OF SIMPLEST AMENITIES.

JEWISH ADMINISTRATORS BUT GERMAN ORDERS.

MEASURES TO PREVENT ECONOMIC IMPROVEMENT.

by

(A Polish Correspondent).

There are three types of ghettoes in Nazi-occupied Europe. First there are the ghettoes of Warsaw, Lodz, Lublin and Cracow which were created by the General Governor Frank in 1939, and were meant for the local population only. Secondly, there is the Lublin reservation which is intended not only for the Jews living there but also as a reception area for Jewish deportees from the Reich, Austria and the Czech Protectorate. Lastly, there are the newly created ghettoes in Lwow, Winlow, Kaunas, Riga, Minsk, Kiev, Odessa and other places in the Ukraine and White Russia.

WARSAW GHETTO—A MODEL.

The Warsaw ghetto, which contained about 400,000 Jews, is used by the Nazis as a model for all others. Its establishment was easily carried out, since most of the Jewish population of Warsaw lived in the north-eastern part of the city, and it was only necessary to transfer about 150,000 Jews living in the west and in the centre. But the Jewish districts of Warsaw had always been overcrowded, and there were neither accommodatation nor sanitary arrangements for the additional 150,000. The Nazi authorities have, however ruthlessly carried out their plan ; tens of thousands of families were forced to leave their homes ; their belongings were confiscated, and they were pushed in behind the ghetto walls. Congestion became intolerable, and many families had to live in one room ; no steps were taken to create even the most primitive facilities for the newcomers. It is no wonder that these conditions resulted in the outbreak of epidemics. This, however, was used by the Nazis as an excuse for tightening the ghetto laws ; they explained that they were forced to segregate infected Jews, to prevent them from spreading the epidemics outside.

JEWISH COUNCIL OF ELDERS.

The administration of communal life is left to a Jewish Council of Elders, acting under strict Nazi supervision, who are collectively responsible for the good behaviour of the whole ghetto population. The Council is also responsible for the collection of taxes and contributions, for the execution of all laws

and regulations relating to the ghetto inhabitants, for the administration of all welfare institutions—so far as they still exist—and for education, so far as it is permitted by the Nazis. Special unarmed Jewish police help the elders to keep order, acting under the direct orders of the Gestapo and military, whose quarters are just outside the ghetto walls. A post office under strict Nazi censorship is the only means of communication with the outside world, a special Jewish gazette is published in the Polish language dealing mainly with official announcements, marriages, obituaries, etc.

STRINGENT RATIONING.

Supplies of food and other articles are supplied to the ghetto in stringent rations; rations for the Jews are about a quarter of those for the Germans, and about half of those for the rest of the non-Jewish population. All commodities produced in the ghetto are strictly controlled by the Nazi authorities, and in most cases taken away either for the military machine or for distribution outside the ghetto. A special monetary system, with circulation inside the ghetto only, has been introduced. Prices for all food and raw materials supplied to the ghetto are fixed by the Nazis, in such a way that the whole of the ghetto production can hardly cover the cost of the small rations allocated to the population. The German system of clearing and barter is applied to all trade done between the ghetto and the outside world, and as a result the ghetto population never has a chance of producing more than the cost of small rations. If production increases, food prices or special taxes are accordingly adjusted by the Nazi authorities, so that the whole ghetto output is absorbed. The population behind the walls can, therefore, never improve its economic position, and the policy of "going slow" is applied by the Jews in every field of industrial and economic activity. This causes unemployment, and any person without full employment is compelled to join the labour gangs for forced labour. The Nazi authorities can always exert pressure on the Council of Elders by threatening to increase the contingent of forced labour. The number of schools in the ghetto is very small; therefore there are no Colleges or Universities, and the only technical schools are those for training skilled workers for the engineering industries working for Germany. Every possible step is taken to keep the outside population away from the ghetto, and to prevent any contact between Jews and non-Jews.

OTHER GHETTOES.

Other ghettoes in the General Government are modelled on that of Warsaw. The Lodz ghetto contains about 150,000 people, the Cracow ghetto about 50,000, and the Lublin ghetto contained until recently about 60,000, but the numbers there have recently increased, owing to the large number of new deportees from the Reich. The Lubin ghetto, which was originally called a "reservation", has a complicated problem, because of the large number of

deportees who are sent there from the Reich without means of support. German Jews have always differed in language, culture, habits and education from Polish Jews living in Lublin, and even in normal conditions there would be difficulties if these groups were suddenly forced to live together. The newly created ghettoes in the occupied territories of Russia are partly under German and partly under Ukrainian supervision. Very little news is yet available about life there, but it may be expected that the lot of the Russian. Latvian and Lithuanian Jews is not any better than that of their Polish fellows.

AIRCRAFT VERSUS TANK.

LESSONS OF THE LIBYAN BATTLE.

HEAVY DAMAGE DONE TO TANK FORMATIONS.

JU-87 DIVE-BOMBER LOSES ITS STING IN LIBYA.

by

Wing-Commander ***L. V. Fraser.***

Another chapter in the history of aircraft versus tank is being recorded in Libya, where, although local conditions exert considerable influence on the nature and course of the battle, certain principles appear to have been established.

First, given equality of tanks which stabilises the land battle, aircraft can have a most disorganising effect on formations of tanks before and after an engagement.

Secondly, British and American aircraft are equal to the task of rendering even the best of German tanks unserviceable and immobile.

The development of policy in the direction of heavier bombs and faster aircraft spells trouble for the tank. With aircraft in their rôle as harriers and destroyers of tanks, several interesting developments came to light immediately. It was obvious—and experience bore this out—that tanks actually in conflict could not be attacked from the air. The degree of interpenetration and confusion was so marked in desert war that no pilot could be certain which side the tanks belonged to, once battle was joined. It became essential—and this was one of the outstanding contributions of the Allied air forces in the Middle East—to bomb and strafe tanks as they were forming up preparatory to meeting the armoured forces of the other side.

These attacks were remorselessly pressed home on General Rommel's tanks and armoured formations, and played a great part in preventing him from entering battle with well-ordered columns. Given the opportunity (and there were plenty of them that were safely and successfully taken), an aircraft could disable a tank with a direct hit or a near miss, but it was soon clear that attacks in force by medium and even light bombers had the effect of dispersing tank formations, and creating a degree of disorganisation in the Axis ranks before their units had had an opportunity of causing a diversion among the Allied forces.

As the Allied forces rushed forward into Libya, it was possible to obtain visual evidence of the damage done by aircraft to enemy tank formations. Vlong vital desert tracks such as that of Trigh-Capuzzo, and even in the wastes of rock and sand surrounding the tracks, were strewn considerable numbers of armoured cars and tanks, which if not completely destroyed had been put out of action by attacks from the air.

An R. A. F. officer who visited a forward zone wrote: "An attack by our bombers had halted another column. Tangled wrecks of the pride of some panzer regiment were blackened and twisted, and littered some three miles of desert. Ammunition and petrol lorries, misshapen hulks of iron, had shared the fate of the tanks."

The role of the JU-87 German dive-bomber, which the enemy successfully used in Poland and France as cover for his tank infiltrations, became elss evident in Libya. The melée of battle did not permit of operations by dive-bombers, which need specialised and carefully picked-out targets. The JU-87 was no match for the aircraft with which the Allies entered the battle, aircraft which included many of the best American and English types.

War in the desert has also demonstrated the effect that accurate and determined bombing and strafing can have on tank units leaving the battle area after an engagement. Speed in re-forming is a vital factor, and air attacks at this stage have proved their usefulness.

Even if any aircraft cannot always destroy a tank outright, the battle in Libya has shown that aircraft can play a supremely important part in the destruction of the far more vulnerable but equally essential supply lorries and armoured vehicles operating in support of tanks. Moreover, in Libya both sides have to deal with the problem of extremely long lines of communications, and the bombing and strafing operations carried out by the Allied air forces along the Libyan roads exerted considerable influence on the course of the tank battle in Marmarica.

END OF GERMAN SURFACE RAIDER NO. 41.
COMMERCE DESTRUCTION ON THE SEAS.
REINFORCEMENT TO AERIAL AND UNDER-WATER ATTACKS.
EVEN UNITS OF REGULAR FLEET USED.

By

*The Naval Correspondent of the "**Manchester Guardian**"*

In official information about the engagement between the Australian cruiser, *Sydney*, and the German surface raider, *Kormoran* (or *Steiermark*), it was disclosed that the German vessel was known to the naval authorities before the engagement as Raider No. 41. That figure is double the total of such ships that were at large during the whole of the last War. So far as is publicly known, seven raiders have been destroyed and three immobilised in the last two years, but it is always possible that for strategic reasons others have not been announced at all, or that some of our captures which have been officially described as "supply ships" were catalogued at some time or other in the Navy's confidential records as raiders.

STORY BEHIND NO. 41.

But if No. 41 does represent the actual total of surface ships which the German Admiralty has thrown into its campaign of commerce destruction on the seas, its significance must not be overlooked. So considerable an effort to reinforce attacks by U-boats and aircraft indicates that the Nazi naval authorities have realised the impossibility of enforcing a total blockade of Britain by under-water and aerial means. Our concentration of escorts, hunting vessels and patrols had to be broken up, aud since that could not be done by direct attack on warships, oblique pressure had to be tried. Widespread activity by surface raiders in more distant oceans might be expected to force us into a dispersal of cruiser and patrol strength in a wearisome, and often fruitless, hunt for a solitary ship. Far more than the material damage they can effect is the strategic rôle of surface raiders in modern sea war.

The equipping of armed merchant raiders is a long and expensive business. It is true that for some few years before the war a certain number of German and Italian merchant ships were specially designed for conversion into auxiliary cruisers, but that step still left a great deal of work to be done during hostilities. The fitting of concealed torpedo-tubes and dummy gun-houses, the mounting of the guns themselves with their rising and falling platforms, the provision of disguises such as dummy funnels, different masts and different bridge structures—all this takes time. To make the disguise complete, there must be several sets of false papers according to the nationality to be assumed. The crew must be word perfect in their parts,

whether they are to represent Norwegians, Dutch or any other nationality. Each man must have a family history which he knows by heart relating him to his supposed native place. All these, and many other types of deception, are necessary in case a ship should be boarded by examination officers from a hostile cruiser, while she is still making her way out into the Atlantic.

A DULL CAREER.

The career of an armed raider is usually intensely dull. As we know from the record of the *Kormoran*, that ship spent at least one period of three months doing absolutely nothing, in order to hide the tracks which had been betrayed by a couple of captures. There are, of course, moments of excitement. And there are moments of despair. It is a notable fact that all the armed raiders which have been destroyed by our forces during this war have been abandoned by their crews at the first real sign of danger. There has been nothing in the story of the German auxiliary navy to parallel the end of the *Rawalpindi* and the *Jervis Bay*. Even in the case of the *Kormoran*, though her antagonist was ablaze amidships, and no longer able to fire concentrated salvoes, 330 of the German crew abandoned ship and lived to tell the tale.

The comparative ineffectiveness of armed merchantmen, in a commerce-destroying campaign, was so apparent to the German authorities that they felt compelled to use important units of their regular fleet to stiffen the campaign. By so doing they sacrificed without profit the battleship *Bismarck*, and the pocket battleship *Graf Spee*, and lost the use of the battle-cruisers—*Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau*, and the light cruiser, *Prinz Eugen*. That is a heavy material loss for so small a fleet as Germany possesses in this war.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

LECTURE LXXVII—(*Batch 4*).

1942—

January	... 10, Saturday ...	Town Hall	... 6.30 p. m.
	11, Sunday ...	Nirpalani	... 6.00 p. m.
		Avoor	... 6.30 p. m.
	12, Monday ...	College (A) English	... 10.15 a. m.
		Karaiyur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Keelathaniam	... 6.30 p. m.
	16, Friday ...	Vadavalam	... 6.00 p. m.
		Malaiyur	... 6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LXXVIII—(*Batch 5*).

1942—				
January	... 17, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	18, Sunday ...	Thiruvarangulam	...	6.00 p. m.
		Vamban	...	6.30 p. m.
	19, Monday ...	Vellanur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Puthambur	...	6.30 p. m.
	20, Tuesday ...	College (A) English	...	10.15 a. m.
		Piliyur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi	...	6.30 p. m.
	21, Wednesday	C. S. M. High School	...	10.00 a. m.
		Rani's High School	...	10.15 a. m.
		College (B) Tamil	...	10.15 a. m.
		Pallivasal	...	6.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam	...	6.30 p. m.
	22, Thursday ...	Kolavoipatti	...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilayur (South)	...	6.30 p. m.
	23, Friday ...	Adanur	...	6.00 p. m.
		Aramanaippatti	...	6.30 p. m.

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

BRANCH OFFICES.

To facilitate the dissemination of events the War Information Bureau are now establishing Branch Offices in the following six mofussil centres of the State.

1. RAYAVARAM.
2. PAṆAYAPATTI.
3. KARAMBAKKUDI.
4. ALANGUDI.
5. ANNAVASAL.
6. KIRANUR.

These are being provided with posters, maps, pictures, and various War literature in English and in Tamil and it is hoped that the public will make full use of the facilities provided.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1000—10-1-42.